



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 31, 2002

H.R. 3558

Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 22, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 3558 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million a year over the 2003-2008 period for new programs to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative species on federal lands. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$8 million in 2003 and \$169 million over the 2003-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. H.R. 3558 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3558 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The grant funds authorized by this bill would benefit state and local governments. Any costs incurred by these governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3558 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	75	75	75	75	75
Estimated Outlays	8	19	31	48	63

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3558 would cost \$8 million in 2003 and \$169 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. For this estimate, we assume that H.R. 3558 will be enacted near the end of 2002, and that authorized amounts will be provided as specified by the bill. Estimates of outlays are based on information from the Department of the Interior and the National Invasive Species Council, as well as spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 3558 would authorize the appropriation of \$62 million a year over the 2003-2008 period for the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to states, local governments, or other eligible applicants to assess the need for projects to restore fish and wildlife habitat and to implement such projects. CBO estimates that such grants would cost \$3 million in 2003 and \$124 million over the next five years.

The bill would allow the Secretary to provide financial assistance to help state and local governments respond to outbreaks of harmful nonnative species and would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year over the 2003-2008 period for that purpose. We estimate that the Secretary would spend \$2 million in 2003 and \$30 million over the 2003-2008 period for such assistance.

Finally, H.R. 3558 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million a year over the same period for the Secretary to monitor projects funded through grants and financial assistance under the bill. CBO estimates that these activities would cost \$3 million in 2003 and \$15 million over the next five years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3558 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The grant funds authorized by this bill would benefit state and local governments. Any costs incurred by these governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

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